

**LA CENTER...** [Sen. Ann Rivers](#), R-La Center, offered this statement today about an accusation of rape made against Sen. Joe Fain of Auburn. Rivers has been a leader of efforts to improve the Legislature's policies regarding the personal conduct of its members and was recently appointed to the new state Women's Commission.

“A serious allegation has been made against Senator Fain. He has denied it and wants the claim to be investigated. I've worked with Senator Fain for many years and know him to be not only a strong advocate for women and children but a man of principle, so I am not surprised by his request.

“How any investigation occurs obviously is up to the authorities in the relevant jurisdiction, but my fellow Republican senators and I agree that any allegation of this nature must be looked into as thoroughly as possible, no matter who is involved and no matter how many years have passed.

“We would hope people will allow any investigative process to be completed before drawing conclusions. Let's get to the truth in a way that is respectful of all those involved.”